

# April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

C.A.T. Distribution #21

As I'm writing this CAT report, we are 308 days past the expiration date of our contract. Part of me wants to say; who would have thought we'd still be negotiating 10 months later, but the other part wants to say; this is no surprise to us on the committee and shouldn't be to any of you as we predicted this right from the start. The problem now is that the company wants to suddenly be in a hurry. Rest assured this committee will not be doing anything in hast just to please the company. We will move ahead the same as we have, and that is by making sure all information requests are answered and to check that the information we receive is accurate. I'm telling you this so hopefully you will understand if negotiations continue for awhile yet. We've prepared for these negotiations for 5 years and we aren't going to screw things up by being in a hurry now. Remember, the company cannot control the timing or tempo of negotiations unless we allow it to happen.

**The main reason this report is being distributed today is to ask all stewards to report to the union hall at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday for a special meeting. Compensation for this meeting will be the same as for a regular steward's meeting. I'm expecting this meeting to last between 1 to 1 1/2 hours. I realize this is last minute so if you can't attend the whole thing, please attend for as much time as you can spare. I want to ask everyone to contact their stewards at home and inform them of this meeting if their steward is on C crew. These people are on their long weekend and will not see this CAT report. In fact, take it a step further and ask all of the stewards in your area if they plan on attending. We will be conducting the administrator's role of the C-5 program and we will be looking for some input from you as to how we will move forward with this. Mike Nantelle has put together a power point presentation for us and hopefully some information from the USW will arrive in time too. If it doesn't (arrive in time) it won't hold up the original presentation.**

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank most of you for realizing what the company has been pulling lately and for not falling into their trap. There isn't a doubt in my mind that the confusion and chaos caused by the April 13th down is all by design. The game playing with seniority is to get everyone worked up. Why would they do this? To divide and conquer, right before we bring something (from negotiations) to a vote. Thanks for standing strong.

I know I'm repeating myself but I need to stress it one more time; things are definitely going to get worse before they get better. The tension and anxiety on the floor will get much worse. Although we all want to be able to express our opinions, please keep it respectful between co-workers and remember who to direct your issues to...the company. They are the ones cutting the jobs, they are the ones that want more flexibility, they are the ones that want your lines of progression, and they are the ones that so far have botched multi craft. The bottom line is; they are the ones that want more, more, more from the top producers in America. Please remember that!!

In Solidarity,



Bryon Branstrom